

IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 43, 44, and 46, AMEND claims 45, 47, and 48, and ADD claims 55-58 in accordance with the following:

1-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) [[The]]An autofocus apparatus according to ~~claim 44~~claim 55, further comprising:

a storage controlling device ~~for storing to store~~ to store said storage device with the data detected by said data detecting portion as the correlation value when said first focus estimating portion creates the focusing data indicating that the image obtained by said first image forming lens is focused on the object on the first plane.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) [[The]]An autofocus apparatus according to ~~claim 46~~claim 55, further comprising:

a storage controlling device ~~for storing to store~~ to store said storage device with the imaging positional deviation detected by said positional deviation detecting device as the correction value when said first focus estimating portion creates the focusing data indicating that the image on said first imaging element is focused on the object.

48. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~An autofocus apparatus according to ~~claim 46~~claim 55, wherein said selecting portion selects said first focusing estimating portion if the imaging positional deviation detected by said positional deviation detecting device is under a predetermined value, and selects said second focusing estimating portion if larger than the predetermined value.

49-54. (Cancelled)

55. (New) An autofocus apparatus for focusing an image of an object on a surface of an image pickup element for producing an electrical signal utilized as a picture signal, comprising:
a photographing optical system including a focus adjusting lens movably provided;
a first focusing estimating device to produce focusing information on the basis of a level of a predetermined frequency component included in the electrical signal of the image pickup element;

a second focusing estimating device including an imaging lens to image at least a part of light of the object image, split from said photographing optical system, an image re-forming system to re-form images of light beams having passed locations different on pupil position of the imaging lens, a light receiving device to receive the light beams of the images formed by the image re-forming system, a positional deviation detecting device to detect an imaging positional deviation on the light receiving device, a memory device to store as a correction value the imaging positional deviation detected by the positional deviation detecting device when the image on the image pickup element is focused on the object image, and a correcting device to correct the imaging positional deviation detected by the positional deviation detecting device with the correction value stored in the memory device, said second focusing estimating device generating second focusing information to focus the image of the object on said image pickup element with respect to the object;

a selecting device to select one of said first focusing estimating device or said second focusing estimating device; and

a moving device to move said focus adjusting lens on the basis of the focusing information generated by the selected focusing estimating device by said selecting device.

56. (New) An autofocus apparatus according to claim 55, wherein said selecting device, if any one item of the data of two items of data from said first focusing estimating device and from said second focusing estimating device is useless, selects the other item of data.

57. (New) An autofocus apparatus according to claim 55, further comprising:
a focus position inputting device to input data about a position of the focus area in which to create the data to focus the object corresponding to the image on the relevant area in an area on said first imaging element,

wherein said first focusing estimating device and said second focusing estimating device create the data to focus the image on said image pickup element upon the object with respect to the focus area existing in the position inputted by said focus position inputting device.

58. (New) An autofocus apparatus according to claim 57, wherein said selecting device selects only the data given from said first focusing estimating device when the focus area position inputted by said focus position inputting device is a position in which the image can not be detected by said image re-forming system.